

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

July 29, 2011

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Breaking News

Suzanne Brennan, New Medicaid Director

Suzanne Brennan came to the Department as the Medicaid director on July 18, 2011. Before joining the Department, Brennan was Senior Program Officer for The Colorado Health Foundation, responsible for developing and implementing strategies to help the Foundation achieve its health care goal for all Coloradans to receive quality, coordinated health care.



"Suzanne's depth of experience along with her dedication to serving Coloradans will lead us through the next steps of health reform," says Sue Birch, executive director. "Colorado is seen as a national leader in Medicaid reform and Suzanne's passion will complement our team of dedicated and committed public servants."

Prior to joining The Colorado Health Foundation, Suzanne served as Vice President of Government Health Services for Policy Studies, Inc., designing operational solutions for state Medicaid and CHIP programs around the country. Before her career shift to the non-profit sector, Suzanne worked in a variety of positions providing strategic planning and market strategy development for technology and

telecommunications companies. Suzanne received a BA in economics from Dartmouth College and an MBA from The Amos Tuck School of Business.

Suzanne serves on the boards of her neighborhood association in Denver and the Colorado Non-Profit Development Corp.

Please help us in welcoming Suzanne to the Department.

CO-CHAMP Update

The Department received a 12 month 'No Cost Extension' to our HRSA SHAP Grant that was scheduled to conclude on August 31, 2011. This means that we will continue to use funds allocated in the first two years of the grant to fund ongoing activities through August 31, 2012.

Pharmacies: Receive Updates Fast

Would you like to receive updates regarding pharmacy related changes for Medicaid? Please send an email to Colorado.SMAC@hcpf.state.co.us and ask to be added to the email distribution list.

Improving Health Outcomes

Accountable Care Collaborative Update



The Department has begun contracting with participating Primary Care Medical Providers, or PCMPs, for program implementation into the Accountable Care Collaborative program. These PCMPs are located in defined focus communities of the Regional Care Collaborative Organizations.

As of June 30, 2011 there was a total of 30,177 clients enrolled into the

Accountable Care Program:

RCCO 1 – Rocky Mountain Health Plans had 5,747 clients;

RCCO 2 - Colorado Access had 4,764 clients;

RCCO 3 - Colorado Access had 3,229 clients;

RCCO 4 – Integrated Community Health Partners had 5,377 clients:

RCCO 5 - Colorado Access had 2,323 clients;

RCCO 6 – Colorado Community Health Alliance will have their first members beginning September 1, 2011; and

RCCO 7 - Community Care of Central Colorado had 8,737 clients.

For the month of July 2011, the Department sent enrollment letters to approximately 13,000 clients state-wide (all regions), bringing the total number of client enrollment letters sent to 43,000. As of the end of June 2011, the total opt-out rate for all regions was 1.68 percent.

If you would like more information, please contact Sarah Roberts.

Pharmacies: Save the Date

In preparation for the upcoming pharmacy reimbursement changes, the Department and ACS will be hosting a webinar on August 29, 2011 from 1:30-2:30. The webinar will focus on general reminders and will provide information regarding the methodology that will be used for pharmaceutical reimbursement. Details for accessing the session will be posted on the Department Web site on August 1, 2011.

Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program will provide incentive payments to eligible providers as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate "meaningful use" of certified EHR technology. CORHIO will be responsible for program coordination as well as provider education and communications, providing a central point of contact on behalf of Medicaid. For more information, please contact Bill Heller.

Grant Submissions

The Department recently submitted an application for supplemental funding for the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant in order to build on the current success of the Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs) and Benefits Planners by integrating the knowledge base into the RCCOs and therefore adding an additional avenue for clients to access this valuable information. Additionally, the Department will use these funds to better coordinate outreach particularly around transportation but more broadly throughout all Department initiatives.

We recently submitted a Real Choice Systems Change Grant proposal -- Building Sustainable Partnerships for Housing. This is an opportunity to request funding to support our Money Follows the Person (MFP) housing goal. We plan to utilize the housing supports and partnerships work done with stakeholder and Division of Housing input for the original MFP application. This opportunity has a very fast turnaround, with a due date of August 15, 2011. Using the input so many of you contributed will enable us to meet the tight deadline.

Containing Costs

Emergency Room Visit Team



Colorado Medicaid clients use the emergency room more frequently than the national Medicaid managed care average. An informal analysis showed that approximately 15 percent of emergency room visits in 2008 were true emergencies.

To view a Colorado map that illustrates ER utilization by county, please

click here.

A team was formed in April 2009 to reduce the number of unnecessary emergency room visits. Recommendations stemming from that team resulted in the FY 2009- 2010 second quarter rate of emergency room visits being 9 percent lower than the FY 2010-2011 second quarter rate (880 vs. 804, respectively).

A 2012 Emergency Room Visit Team was convened to get input on how to further reduce the rate of emergency room visits. Team participants include representatives from organizations closest to the issue: Colorado hospitals, the Colorado chapter of the American Academy of Pediatricians, emergency room physicians, community mental health centers, Medicaid and CHP+ contracted HMOs, community health clinics, Behavioral Health Organizations and the newly designated Regional Care Collaborative Organizations.

We will be investigating the feasibility of the ideas from the group and will provide updates in *At a Glance*.

If you would like more information, please contact Katie.Brookler@state.co.us.

Initiative Updates

The Medicaid Infrastructure Grant for the Competitive Employment of People with Disabilities (MIG); Money Follows the Person (MFP) and the State Demonstrations to Integrate Care for Dual Eligible Individuals (DEI Contract) are three initiatives that have crossover in goals and interested audiences. We'd like to provide coordinated updates on their progress in the best way possible.

We know it can be difficult keeping up-to-date on all of our initiatives that help us reach our shared goals. We want to communicate what we are doing and how we are doing it the best we can. We have email distribution lists for specific initiatives, conduct stakeholder public meetings, use the Web site and place information in all of our publications.

If you have suggestions on how to better get the word out or would like to be placed on an email distribution list, please email <u>Joanne Zahora</u>.

To view updates on the following initiatives, please click on the name of the initiative.

Money Follows the Person Federal Grant – CO-ACTS

HRSA Grant – CO-CHAMP

Colorado Health Care Affordability Act

Accountable Care Collaborative

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new <u>Web site</u> and our job openings.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

Enrollment

In June 2011 there were 588,925 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 65,760 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Web site, Budget.